

Delaware sends wildfire crew to Great Basin region

SMYRNA – Responding to a spike in wildfire activity in the West that has increased the [National Fire Preparedness Level to 4 on a 5-point scale](#), Delaware has joined forces with neighboring Mid-Atlantic states to dispatch a module of five crews, a total of 100 firefighters, to battle fires for the [Great Basin's Geographic Area Coordination Center](#). The crews departed Harrisburg, PA on August 25 and flew to Salt Lake City, Utah. Delaware has been assigned to the Henry's Creek Fire near Idaho Falls, Idaho, which was listed at 52,511 acres in size and 37% contained. A total of 350 personnel are currently assigned to the incident. <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4982/>

As an example of the pressing need for firefighters and equipment, the [Pioneer Fire in Idaho](#) alone has scorched more than 100,000 acres and was only 38 percent contained on August 25. More than 1,800 fire personnel were battling the fire that had already cost more than \$66 million. Five crews from the East are already assigned to that major incident.

This is the second crew that Delaware has sent out this summer. The [Delaware Forest Service dispatched firefighters to Colorado](#) on July 25. They battled the 492-acre Milk Fire near Craig, Colorado and the [1,287-acre Tokewanna Fire](#) near Mountain View, Wyoming. They finished up on the [12,276-acre Whit Fire](#), east of Yellowstone National Park near Cody, Wyoming.

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Photos on the Delaware Department of Agriculture's Flickr Page: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/agriculturede/AKH4A9>

For more information or updates on the Delaware crew, follow [@DelWildfire](#) or [@DelForestService](#) on Facebook.



From left to right: Erich Burkentine of Milton; Mark Kammer of Magnolia; Chris Sturm of Woodside; Allen Austin Gardner-Bowler of Milford; Mike Valenti of Dover; Edward Boyer of Milton; Jim Charney of Felton; Dan Mihok of Camden; Bart Wilson of Dover; Matt Dotterer of Milton; Jeff Wilson of Clayton; Guy Cooper of Millville; and, Nathaniel Sommers of Smyrna.



The Delaware Forest Service's Guy Cooper of Milton mobilized with the team of firefighters that departed Blackbird State Forest.



The crew members get an operational briefing from crew boss Erich Burkentine of Milton, a regional forester with the Delaware Forest Service.



Allen Austin Gardner-Bowler of Milford, a rookie making his first trip with a Delaware wildfire crew, packs his gear.